



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.  
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION  
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

# Press Release

October 19, 2005

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL MCGRAW SUES TO STOP UNLICENSED POOL INSTALLER FROM UNLAWFUL HOME IMPROVEMENT PRACTICES**

Attorney General Darrell McGraw filed suit today in Putnam County Circuit Court against Charles Roth, an unlicensed contractor from Dunbar who has been installing swimming pools and other home improvements, then walking away with consumers' money without completing the jobs he was paid to perform.

Roth advertised in newspapers and telephone directories as "Valley Pools," "Valley Pools & Spas," and other trade names. Once contacted by interested consumers, he visited their homes and submitted low bids to install pools and other home improvements. Upon hearing Roth's low prices and promises of "fifteen year" warranties, consumers eagerly signed contracts with Roth and made large down payments. However, once the work began and Roth had received significant payments on his contracts, he became increasingly difficult to reach. The contractor ignored consumers' telephone messages asking that he return to finish the jobs. Some jobs were relatively completed, but consumers soon encountered dozens of defects in the equipment and materials installed by Roth and his crew. Consumers found heater and pump equipment installed backwards, leaks in the pool beds, crumbling concrete, and other defects. Consumers complained to Attorney General McGraw's office that when they contacted Roth and insisted on proper repairs, Roth blamed consumers and became threatening.

Nearly all of Roth's bids and contract proposals represented that he had "Contractor's License Number WV30970" or "WV31182." However, inquiries to the Contractor's Licensing Board revealed that those license numbers were invalid.

Attorney General McGraw's office seeks an order enjoining Roth from all further business activity in West Virginia until such time as restitution is paid to all consumers, and until he demonstrates that his operations are in compliance with West Virginia law.

Consumers who would like to file a complaint are encouraged to call Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986. Consumers may also write to Post Office Box 1789, Charleston, WV 25326-1789, e-mail, [consumer@wvago.gov](mailto:consumer@wvago.gov), or by downloading a complaint form from the Attorney General's website using the links at the top of this page.

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